

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 498Me-G1e	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013774	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03.12.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 06.12.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01 F27/14, B01 D53/26		
Applicant MASCHINENFABRIK REINHAUSEN GMBH		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-4 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/4-4/4 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
1	This report makes reference to the following document:		
D1:	EP 1 313 112 A1 (VIERECK KARSTEN ET AL) 21 May 2003 (2003-05-21)		
2	INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1		
	<p>D1 is considered to be the closest prior art. D1 discloses:</p> <p>a method according to the preamble of claim 1 in which the electric heating device is activated only when there is no air flow between the housing and the oil expansion tank.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The problem to be solved by the present invention is that of providing a method in which the undesired entry of insufficiently dehumidified air into the oil expansion tank is reliably prevented.</p>		

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
3	<p>The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)): <i>the exchange of air between the air chamber of the oil expansion tank and the ambient air is not prevented.</i></p> <p>INDEPENDENT CLAIM 2</p> <p>D1 is considered to be the closest prior art. D1 discloses all the features of the preamble of claim 2.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 2 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The problem to be solved by the present invention can be regarded as that of <i>preventing excess pressure or negative pressure from developing in the oil expansion tank during the heating process, which pressure could lead to excessive flow of air through the dehumidifier when the magnet valve is opened.</i></p> <p>The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 2 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)): <i>the heating device is activated only when, in addition to the air humidity limit being exceeded, the pressure between the housing and the oil expansion tank is larger or equal to the ambient pressure.</i></p>

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4.	<p>INDEPENDENT CLAIM 3</p> <p>The same argument (as for claim 2) applies accordingly to independent claim 3.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 3 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)) and involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p>
5.	<p>Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and therefore also meets the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>